(d) if so, date of approach, response received so far and the likely time of its sanction; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (e) The Government of Assam has been requested to update and revise its project proposal for development of sericulture with OECF loan assistance since the project is based on 1994 data. The revised proposal has not been received from the Government of Assam.

In view of the above position, any further action can be taken only after the updated report is received from the Government of Assam.

Privatisation of Jute Corporation of India

2297. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Jute Corporation of India (JCI) has proposed to privatise its market operations; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Private Sector Participation in Reviving NTC Mills

2298. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item, captioned Rs. 3000 crore revival plan soon for sick NTC units, appearing in the Statesman dated 19th November, 1999;

(b) if so, the details of NTC mills identified for revival and likely expenditure on each of the sick mills;

(c) the source through which Government got funds for revival of the mills; and

(d) whether Government propose to invite private participation for revival of these units; if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Government is aware of the news appearing in Newspapers from time to time.

(b) and (c) On the basis of a unit-wise viability study made by NTC, Government is considering a revised turn around plan for the viable subsidiaries of NTC alongwith the viable mills under them keeping in view the BIFR norms of net worth of these mills turning positive within the period prescribed by BIFR. The interest of the workers will be kept in view in the Revival Plan.

(d) Government has no objection to private participation in revival of NTC mills provided the interest of the workers be safeguarded and subject to the approval of BIFR.